

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03279 240125Z  
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 SSO-00 /035 W  
-----091553 240126Z /70

O 240125Z AUG 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2955

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 03279

FROM LOS DEL

H FOR SENATOR CHURCH FROM AMBASSADOR ELLIOT RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PLOS  
SUBJECT: LOS - DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION (S.2053)

1. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR SENATOR CHURCH:

I WAS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT THE  
DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION (S.2053). BEFORE IT IS  
MARKED UP BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TOMORROW,  
I WOULD LIKE TO AMPLIFY MY VIEWS AND THOSE OF THE ADMINIS-  
TRATION ON THIS LEGISLATION.

WHILE THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE  
DID MAKE PROGRESS IN GENEVA, IT IS HIGHLY UNCERTAIN WHEN  
OR WHETHER AN ACCEPTABLE TREATY WILL BE SIGNED. IT IS  
CLEAR, IN ANY CASE, THAT SEVERAL YEARS WILL PASS AFTER  
THE TREATY IS SIGNED BEFORE IT ENTERS INTO FORCE, AND  
ADDITIONAL TIME WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL  
SEABED AUTHORITY TO PROMULGATE ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS  
AND FINALLY APPROVE CONTRACTS.

IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS A VERY REAL RISK THAT AMERICAN  
OCEAN MINING COMPANIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THEIR  
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03279 240125Z

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS UNDER THESE HIGHLY UNCERTAIN  
CIRCUMSTANCES. IN MY JUDGMENT, MOREOVER, THE CERTAIN  
PROSPECT OF DEEP SEA MINING WILL HELP TO STRENGTHEN THE  
SPIRIT OF REALITY AND COMPROMISE WHICH HAS RECENTLY  
CHARACTERIZED THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS.

ALTHOUGH IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE SOME AD-

VERSE REACTIONS AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE PENDING LEGISLATION, I AM CONVINCED NOT ONLY THAT IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST FOR S. 2053 TO BE ENACTED INTO LAW AT THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS BUT THAT THIS WILL ALSO ADVANCE THE INTEREST OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE FULFILLMENT OF THE COMMON HERITAGE.

AT THE SAME TIME, I MUST EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO S. 2053 THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE BILL FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEES MADE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BILL, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT THE FURTHER AMENDMENTS SET OUT IN MY TESTIMONY OF AUGUST 17 BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ARE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A SOUND SEABED MINING PROGRAM FOR THE UNITED STATES.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF S. 2053 BY THE 95TH CONGRESS SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE YOU WILL LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO THIS END.

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PAGE 03 USUN N 03279 240125Z

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS I WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THEM WITH YOU. I MAY BE REACHED IN NEW YORK AT THE FOLLOWING NUMBER: (212) 826-5791.

WITH WARM REGARD, SINCERELY, ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014